

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

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TAGS:

SUBJECT:

1. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM JACK ANDERSON COLUMN IN WASHINGTON POST JULY 2: "MARCOS BRIBE OFFER CITED BY WITNESS"
2. "PRESIDENT FERDINAND MARCOS, THE PHILIPPINES' STRONGMAN OFFERED A WITNESS A \$50,000 BRIBE THE OTHER DAY NOT TO TESTIFY ON CAPITOL HILL ABOUT CORRUPTION AND TYRANNY IN THE PHILIPPINES.
3. "THE WITNESS, MARCOS' FORMER PRESS CENSOR PRIMITIVO MIJARES, WAS PREPARED TO TELL THE UNCENSORED STORY OF THE MARCOS REGIME TO A HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE.
4. "ON THE EVE OF HIS TESTIMONY, MIJARES RECEIVED A PERSONAL CALL FROM MARCOS IN MANILA URGING HIM NOT TO TESTIFY. THEN AN AIDE GOT ON THE PHONE AND OFFERED HIM THE \$50,000.

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5. " THE MONEY ACTUALLY WAS DEPOSITED IN A SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH OF LLOYDS BANK OF CALIFORNIA IN THE NAMES OF PRIMITIVO MIJARES AND AMBASSADOR TRINIDAD ALCONCEL, THE

PHILIPPINES' CONSUL GENERAL. THUS MIJARES COULDN'T WITHDRAW THE \$50,000 UNTIL THE CONSUL GENERAL COUNTERSIGNED THE CHECK.

6. "MIJARES NOT ONLY WENT AHEAD WITH HIS TESTIMONY BUT INFORMED CHAIRMAN DON FRASER (D-MINN) OF THE BRIBE ATTEMPT. FRASER'S OFFICE NOTIFIED THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, WHICH IS INVESTIGATING.

7. "WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT \$50,000 WAS DEPOSITED IN THE NAMES OF BOTH MIJARES AND ALCONCEL IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT NO. 0662-460-62 AT LLOYDS BANK OF CALIFORNIA. THE BANK'S RECORDS SHOW THAT ALCONCEL REMOVED MIJARES' NAME FROM THE JOINT ACCOUNT ON JUNE 18, THE DAY AFTER MIJARES TESTIFIED.

8. "FOR A FOREIGN HEAD OF STATE TO ATTEMPT TO BRIBE A CONGRESSIONAL WITNESS IS UNPRECEDENTED; THE AMAZING STORY BEGAN A FEW MONTHS AGO WHEN MIJARES WALKED OUT OF MALACANANG, THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, AFTER THREE YEARS AS MARCOS' CONFIDANT AND PROPAGANDIST.

9. "BY MIJARES' ACCOUNT, HE SIMPLY BECAME DISGUSTED WITH MARCOS AND SOUGHT ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES. AN APPROACH WAS MADE IN MAY TO PERSUADE HIM TO COME HOME. A COLONEL IN MARCOS' PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, ROMEO OCHOCO, LOOKED UP MIJARES IN SAN FRANCISCO.

10. "OVER COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS IN A 24-HOUR RESTAURANT, THEY TALKED ABOUT A BOOK THAT MIJARES IS WRITING ABOUT THE MARCOS DICTATORSHIP. HE PLANS TO CALL IT, 'THE CONJUGAL DICTATORSHIP OF FERDINAND AND IMELDA.'

11. "THE COLONEL WAS SOOTHING. 'HE SAID MARCOS WOULD TALK TO ME ABOUT MY COMPLAINTS,' RECALLED MIJARES. BUT THE FORMER PRESS CENSOR FELT HE KNEW MARCOS TOO WELL TO TRUST HIM.

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12. "THE COLONEL'S VISIT WAS FOLLOWED BY A SERIES OF TELEPHONE CALLS FROM AMBASSADOR ALCONCEL, WHO HAD HEARD THAT MIJARES WOULD BE A STAR WITNESS AT FRASER'S HEARINGS ON U.S.-PHILIPPINES PROBLEMS.

13. "THE CONSUL GENERAL TRIED TO PERSUADE MIJARES NOT TO TESTIFY AND, WHEN MIJARES REFUSED, TO 'PULL THE PUNCHES.'

IN RETURN, THE FORMER CENSOR WAS PROMISED THAT MANILA WOULD 'HELP' HIM.

14. "HE FLEW TO WASHINGTON, NEVERTHELESS, TO TESTIFY AND CHECKED INTO A DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON MOTEL. NOT LONG AFTERWARD, ON JUNE 16, HE RECEIVED A CALL FROM MANILA.

15. "'IT WAS MARCOS,' MIJARES TOLD US. 'HE STARTED OUT BY CALLING ME BY MY NICKNAME, 'TIBO'; HE ASKED ME NOT TO TESTIFY, BECAUSE OF WHAT IT WOULD DO TO HIS 'NEW SOCIETY.'

16. "' I TOLD HIM IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO BACK OUT SINCE I WAS ALREADY UNDER THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION. HE TOLD ME HIS ASSISTANT WOULD TELL ME SOMETHING, THAT THEY HAD SOMETHING FOR ME.'

17. "THEN PRESIDENTIAL AIDE GUILLERMO DE VEGA GOT ON THE LINE, ACCORDING TO MIJARES, AND BEGAN SPEAKING IN A MIXTURE OF TAGALOG AND SPANISH TO CONFUSE POSSIBLE WIRETAPERS. THE AIDE SAID \$50,000 WOULD BE AWAITING MIJARES IN SAN FRANCISCO IF HE DIDN'T TESTIFY. BUT IF HE WENT AHEAD WITH HIS TESTIMONY, THE AIDE WARNED, IT WOULD BE 'A DECLARATION OF WAR.'

18. MIJARES HELD FIRM. TWO HOURS BEFORE HE WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKE THE STAND, HE RECEIVED A CALL FROM ALCONCEL IMPLOING HIM NOT TO TESTIFY AND REITERATING THAT THE MONEY WOULD BE ON HAND IN SAN FRANCISCO.

19. "BUT THE ONETIME CENSOR, HAVING RENOUNCED HIS FORMER WAY OF LIFE, TOOK THE WITNESS CHAIR AND TESTIFIED IN DETAIL ABOUT VOTE FRAUD, CORPORATE THEFT, PAYOFFS, ILLEGAL JAILINGS AND GENERAL CORRUPTION.

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20. "MIJARES LAID ALL THESE CRIMES RIGHT AT THE DOOR OF MARCOS, HIS FAMILY AND HIS CRONIES. NOR DID MIJARES SPARE HIMSELF IN HIS TESTIMONY.

21. "NOW HE IS TRYING TO CONVINCE U.S. IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES THAT THERE IS A PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES FOR A NEWSPAPERMAN ON THE RUN FROM TOTALITARIANISM.

22. " FOOTNOTE: WE HAVE CONFIRMED THE DETAILS OF MIJARES' STORY FROM OTHER COMPETENT SOURCES. LLOYDS BANK OF CALIFORNIA ALSO CONFIRMED OUR INFORMATION ABOUT THE \$50,000 BANK DEPOSIT. WE WERE UNABLE TO REACH THE PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR FOR HIS COMMENT. INGERSOLL

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